

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel Claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 14 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as shown below. This Listing of Claims will replace prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for limiting the use of an ~~network~~ internet protocol address, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

- receiving a signal from a device connected to a network;
- acquiring the ~~network~~ internet protocol address from the signal;
- acquiring ~~identification data~~ a media access control address specific to the device from the signal;
- generating a second internet protocol address according to the acquired media access control address;
- determining whether the ~~network~~ acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address ~~conforms to the identification data;~~ and
- sending a message preventing the device from using the ~~network~~ internet protocol address based on the determination when it is determined that the acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the second internet protocol address.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the message ~~in the sending step~~ indicates that the ~~network~~-internet protocol address is duplicated.

4. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing computer-executable process steps for limiting the use of an ~~network~~-internet protocol address, the computer-executable process steps comprising:

receiving a signal from a device connected to a network;  
acquiring the ~~network~~-internet protocol address from the signal;  
~~acquiring identification data~~ a media access control address specific to the device from the signal;

generating a second internet protocol address according to the acquired media access control address;

determining whether the ~~network~~acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address ~~conforms to the identification data~~; and

sending a message preventing the device from using the ~~network~~-internet protocol address when it is determined that the acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address ~~based on the determination~~.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~storage medium~~computer-executable process steps according to claim 4, wherein the message ~~in the sending step~~ indicates that the ~~network~~-internet protocol address is duplicated.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for limiting the use of an network internet protocol address, comprising:

a connection means-unit configured to connect for connecting to a network and receiving a signal from a device connected to the network;

an acquisition means-unit configured to acquire for acquiring the networkinternet protocol address from the signal, and ~~identification data~~ a media access control address specific to the device from the signal;

an address generation unit configured to generate a second internet protocol address according to the media access control address acquired by the acquisition unit;

a determinationing means-unit configured to determine for determining whether the ~~network-acquired internet protocol~~ address corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address ~~conforms to the identification data;~~ and

a message generation means-unit configured to generate for generating a message preventing the device from using the ~~network-internet protocol~~ address when it is determined that the acquired internet protocol address- corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address-based on the determination; and

a sending unit configured to wherein the connection means-send the message to the device.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the ~~connection means~~ sending unit sends the message indicating that the ~~network internet protocol~~ address is duplicated for preventing the device from using the network-internet protocol address.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for limiting data transfer, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a signal from a device connected to a network;  
acquiring an ~~network~~internet protocol address from the signal;  
acquiring ~~identifier~~a media access control address specific to the device  
from the signal;

generating a second internet protocol address according to the media  
acquired access control address;

determining whether the ~~network~~acquired internet protocol address  
~~conforms to the identifier specific to the device~~corresponds to the generated  
second internet protocol address; and

limiting transfer of the signal ~~in accordance with whether the network  
address corresponds to the identifier specific to the device~~when it is determined  
that the acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the generated second  
internet protocol address.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein, ~~in  
the limiting step,~~ the transfer of the signal from a first network to a second  
network is limited.

13. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing computer-executable  
process steps for limiting data transfer, the computer-executable process steps  
comprising:

receiving a signal from a device connected to a network;  
acquiring an ~~network~~internet protocol address from the signal;  
acquiring ~~identifier~~a media access control address specific to the device  
from the signal;

generating a second internet protocol address according to the acquired  
media access control address;

determining whether the ~~network~~acquired internet protocol address  
corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address ~~conforms to the~~

~~identifier specific to the device; and~~

~~limiting transfer of the signal in accordance with whether the network address corresponds to the identifier specific to the device~~ when it is determined that the acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The storage medium ~~program~~ according to claim 13, wherein, ~~in the limiting step,~~ the transfer of the signal from a first network to a second network is limited.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for limiting data transfer, comprising:

a connection means ~~unit configured to connect for connecting~~ to a network and ~~receiving~~ receive a signal from a device connected to the network;

an acquisition means ~~unit configured to for acquiring~~ acquire the network address an internet protocol address from the signal, and a media access control address ~~identifier specific to the device~~ from the signal;

an address generation unit configured to generate a second internet protocol address according to the acquired media access control address;

a determining ~~determination means~~ unit configured to for determining determine whether the network-acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address ~~conforms to the identifier specific to the device; and~~

a limiting means ~~unit configured to limit for transfer of the signal~~ when it is determined that the acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address ~~in accordance with whether the network address corresponds to the identifier specific to the device.~~

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the limiting ~~means-unit~~ limits transfer of the signal from a first network to a second network.